

THE RETIREMENT OF NREL DIRECTOR VICE ADMIRAL RICHARD TRULY

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday, Vice Admiral Richard Truly, director of DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), announced that he plans to retire in early November after more than seven years as NREL's director.

Although I am not greatly surprised by this announcement, I am saddened by it. I know that a national search will soon be launched to select the Admiral's successor, and I expect that his successor will represent NREL well in future years. But Admiral Truly has so vividly marked the last five years I've spent working on renewable energy policy in the House of Representatives. It is hard to imagine NREL without him.

In a letter to staff, Admiral Truly wrote, "I honestly believe that it is at the intersection of our energy use, our environment, our economic well being and our national security that society finds the greatest engineering and scientific challenges on Earth today. Each of you at NREL are at the heart of this challenge and opportunity. What you do really, really matters to our nation and our world. I feel a deep privilege to have been a small part of your successes over these years."

This last statement exemplifies the Admiral's approach to leadership. He was always quick to credit NREL staff for their achievements and believed in the importance of teamwork. He was admired by his colleagues at NREL and, I think, inspired them to work harder and aim higher.

For the Admiral, no challenge was too great. He wasn't content to rise to the rank of vice admiral in the Navy. He was also a naval aviator, test pilot and astronaut, logging more than 7,500 hours of flight. His astronaut career included work in the Air Force's Manned Orbiting Laboratory program, and NASA's Apollo, Skylab, Apollo-Soyuz and Space Shuttle programs. He piloted the 747/Enterprise approach and landing tests in 1977. He lifted off in November 1981 as pilot aboard Columbia, the first shuttle to be reflown into space, establishing a world circular orbit altitude record. He commanded Challenger in August-September 1983, the first night launch/landing mission of the Space Shuttle program. For all these achievements, President Reagan awarded the Presidential Citizen's Medal to Admiral Truly in 1989. Admiral Truly capped off his space career by serving as NASA's eighth Administrator under President George H.W. Bush from 1989-1992.

During his seven years at NREL, Admiral Truly has raised the visibility of the laboratory to new heights. NREL is considered the premier laboratory for renewable energy research and development and a leading laboratory for energy efficiency R&D. As a world leader in the development of these technologies, NREL is involved in fifty different areas of scientific research, from solar photovoltaics and wind energy to hydrogen fuel cells and distributed energy generation.

As co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, I have worked hard

to increase funding for NREL's important research and generally to raise the profile of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Congress. It has been an uphill climb, as these programs have had to compete for funding with others. What has inspired me to keep fighting the fight has been knowing that Admiral Truly and his team are back in Colorado, pushing technological limits, dreaming up new ways for us to transition to a clean energy future. Admiral Truly may not be with NREL in the years to come, but I know he will always be there in spirit, urging us all to continue to aim for the stars.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB GEORGE

### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise with considerable sadness to pay tribute to the life and memory of Bob George of Aspen, Colorado. Bob recently passed away at the age of sixty-one. With the loss of Bob, Aspen loses a friend of the community. As his family mourns his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Bob first moved to Aspen in 1964, after attending the University of Colorado at Boulder. Soon after, he married Karin Knudson, with whom he went on to have three children. In 1967, he found work with Mason & Morse, a real estate firm, and with a good college friend, they worked hard and eventually assumed control of the company. The two partners and friends put much time and effort in transforming Mason & Morse Real Estate into the largest firm in the Aspen Valley.

As a spirited business leader, Bob achieved great success. He was the president of two professional organizations, the Aspen Board of Realtors and the Aspen Chamber Resort Association. His dedication to the community included memberships in the Aspen Elks Club, Mountain Rescue and Rotary Club. He was also president of the Aspen School Board and spent time volunteering for the Sunshine Kids and Ducks Unlimited.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life and memory of Bob George. He was a natural business leader and a valuable member of his community. More importantly, Bob will always be remembered as a consummate family man. I wish to extend my deepest regrets and sympathy to Bob's family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 14, 2004, I was unavoidably detained and thus missed rollcall votes #232, #233, #234 and #235. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on #232, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the

Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003; "yea" on #233, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the need to provide prostate cancer patients with meaningful access to information on treatment options; "yea" on #234, to provide rapid acquisition authority to the Secretary of Defense to respond to combat emergencies; and "yea" on #235, honoring former President George Herbert Walker Bush on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

### OCC AND THE BANK-REALTOR FIGHT

### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD an article recently published in the American Banker, entitled, "OCC Caught in the Middle of Bank-Realtor Fight."

[From the American Banker, June 2, 2004]

### OCC CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF BANK-REALTOR FIGHT

(By Todd Davenport)

The possibility that banks will one day sell houses makes the real estate brokers' lobby shudder and has galvanized it to fight against any incursion it perceives.

For the last three years the most obvious threat has been a joint proposal by the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve Board that would let financial holding companies and financial subsidiaries offer real estate brokerage services.

But in the past year the National Association of Realtors has targeted the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's recent efforts to stake out its preemption authority. The trade group says the OCC's ability to insulate national banks from state laws that require real estate and mortgage licensing is also a threat.

The OCC has countered that there is little, if any, connection between preemption and real estate brokerage, but right or wrong, the trade group has become an unexpected and powerful opponent to the OCC's preemption regulations at a time when it needs all the friends it can get.

The regulations were finalized in January, but some lawmakers on Capitol Hill have threatened to take action against them.

"The Comptroller's position is that this has nothing to do with real estate brokerage, but I don't think the Comptroller has been successful in deflecting the awareness of people on the Hill that the Realtors are concerned," said Gil Schwartz, a lawyer with Schwartz & Ballen LLP in Washington.

The Realtors "have brought a lot of people focused at the local level," Mr. Schwartz said. "They have brought much more awareness of not just what can happen now but what can happen in the future."

The group says preemption is relevant, because the OCC could let banks into real estate brokerage independent of the joint Fed-Treasury proposal, which was made under the auspices of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act.

"Right now a national bank could apply to the OCC for real estate brokerage to be considered a permissible banking activity," said Lynn King, a regulatory representative at the trade group.

Realtors say the OCC could rely on an existing interpretation that authorizes national banks to operate as "finders." That broad power effectively allows a bank to act as the middleman in many financial transactions.